

We Claim:

1. A child restraint seat anchor that detects whether a child restraint seat is attached to a vehicle seat, the child restraint seat anchor device comprising:

5 a housing adapted to be fixed to the vehicle seat;

a movable anchor having a coupler portion and mounting portion, the coupler portion adapted to couple with a coupler on the child restraint seat and the mounting portion being received in the housing; the moveable anchor being shiftable within the housing from a first position, indicating that a child seat is not attached to the vehicle seat, to a second position, indicating that a child seat is attached to the vehicle seat;

at least one spring applying a bias to the movable anchor that urges the movable anchor to the first position;

a first stop engaged by the removable anchor when the movable anchor has shifted to the second position, the second stop, when engaged by the movable anchor transferring force applied by the coupler of the child restraint seat to the vehicle seat, and

a switch in operative association with the movable anchor, the switch being adapted for connection to an air bag to disable deployment of the air bag, or to reduce deployment speed of the air bag, upon the movable anchor being shifted to the second position.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein the movable anchor positively engages the second stop upon shifting to the second position.

3. The device of claim 2 wherein the switch is a normally open switch which is closed upon the movable anchor being shifted to the second position.

4. The device of claim 3 wherein the switch is a micro switch having an actuator spaced from the movable anchor when the movable anchor is in the first position and engaged by the movable anchor when the movable anchor has shifted to the second position.

5. The device of claim 1 wherein the housing includes a chamber having an opening through a front wall thereof which the coupler portion of the movable anchor extends, the chamber receiving the mounting portion of the movable anchor, the chamber having a rear wall defining the first stop that is spaced a selected distance from a front wall, which front wall defines the second stop.
6. The device of claim 5 wherein the mounting portion of the movable anchor includes shoulder portions which engage the front wall adjacent to the opening through which the coupling portion of the movable anchor extends.
7. The device of claim 6 wherein the mounting portion of the movable anchor includes a recess therein in which the at least one spring and the micro switch are positioned.
8. The device of claim 7 wherein the at least spring has a first end abutting a portion of the front wall of the housing disposed within the recess and a second end engageable by a rear wall of the recess in the movable anchor.
9. The device of claim 8 wherein there are two springs with the micro switch positioned therebetween.
10. The device of claim 9 including bolt holes through the front wall adapted to receive bolts for fixing the device to a vehicle seat.
11. An arrangement for attaching a child restraint seat to the frame of a seat back of a vehicle seat, the arrangement comprising:
a pair of child restraint seat anchors positioned in spaced relation to one another on the frame of the seat back, at least one of the anchors being a movable anchor disposed in a housing fixed to the seat back and being shiftable between a first position, indicating that the child seat is not attached, and a second position indicating that a child seat is attached;

at least one spring disposed between a wall of the housing and the movable anchor for urging the movable anchor to the first position;

a first stop within the housing engaged by the movable anchor when the movable anchor is in the first position;

5 a second stop within the housing engageable by the movable anchor when the movable anchor has shifted to the second position, the second stop, when engaged by the movable anchor, transferring force applied by the coupler of the child restraint seat to the vehicle seat, and

10 a switch in operable association with the movable anchor, the switch being adapted for connection to an air bag to disable deployment of the air bag or to decrease deployment speed of the air bag upon the movable anchor being moved to the second position.

12. The arrangement of claim 11 wherein the switch is a normally open electrical switch.

13. The arrangement of claim 12 wherein the switch is within the housing.

14. The arrangement of claim 11 wherein the second stop is positively engaged by the movable anchor when the movable anchor is moved to the second position by attachment of the child restraint seat to the movable anchor.

15. The arrangement of claim 11 wherein the movable anchor is slidably mounted for sliding between the first and second positions.

16. The arrangement of claim 11 wherein the movable anchor is pivotably mounted for pivoting between the first and second positions.